

Testimony in Support of Raised Bill 6592

An Act Requiring the Consideration of Housing Needs for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities in Municipal Affordable Housing Plans

February 6, 2023

Hello Senator Moore, Representative Luxenberg, Senator Sampson, Representative Scott, Senator Lesser, Representative Khan and other esteemed members of the Housing Committee. My name is Win Evarts and I live in Norwalk with my wife and my 32- year-old son who has an intellectual disability and I'm the Executive Director of The Arc of Connecticut, the oldest and largest advocacy organization in the state dedicated to protecting the rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities ("IDD") and promoting opportunities for their inclusion in the full life of their communities.

We are supportive of HB 6592 because Connecticut must increase its stock of affordable housing to lower the incidence of homelessness, keep families together, and promote inclusion. Independent living requires housing stability. The inputs that create housing stability start with a supply of diverse affordable housing. Without that supply, individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities will most likely become homeless upon the death or incapacitation of their last surviving caregiver. That's a grim outcome that can and should be avoided.

While HB 6592 asks for thought to be given to the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities, the accommodations resulting from those needs will likely be useful to other populations.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

Win Evarts, Executive Director

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